

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

<sup>6</sup> “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. (NIV 84)

Theme: Hurry up and Wait...for Eternal Life

1. It is yours now
2. It will be fully realized in eternity.

Hurry up and wait. We all do it from time to time. We don't want to be late and miss out on anything. So we get hurry-up and get ready, we might drive a little fast, or cut some other corners so we can be early. Maybe it is to Church, a doctor's appointment, to class, to a sporting event. And then what do you do? You wait. You hurried up to make sure you wouldn't miss out; but now you just sit and wait. Yes, for many things in our life, it's hurry up and wait. The same can be said when it comes to eternal life. You already have eternal life through faith. And having faith is urgent, so you hurry up. Yet you won't fully realize what this means until the Last Day, and so you wait.

Jesus told his disciples to hurry up and wait. Before he ascended into heaven, he told the disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait, **until you have been clothed with power from on high**. This happened on Pentecost, 10 days later. We are in that time period right now—between Ascension and Pentecost. It's a period of transition. Between the time of Jesus' departure and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The disciples hurried up to Jerusalem, and then, they waited. They waited for Jesus' to keep his promise.

We should make clear that our text doesn't take place during this period. Jesus spoke these words in the upper room on Maundy Thursday. They are the beginning of his great “High Priestly Prayer.” In it he prayed for himself. And he prayed for his disciples. And he certainly had this period in mind as he prayed for his disciples.

In verse four Jesus prayer to the Father, **I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do**. Jesus brought glory—that is honor and praise to the Father by obeying his will. Jesus did everything that he was sent to do. Jesus was sent to live a perfect life—to obey all of his own laws and to respect others in authority over him. Not once did he go against God's will or fail to show love and respect to someone. It was also the Father's will was also for Jesus to suffer. You may remember Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, **Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done**. But it was the Father's will. So Jesus was betrayed, beaten, flogged and crucified. God sent the Son to take our sins upon himself. He became guilty of everything we have done wrong. And he suffered through their eternal punishment when we was forsaken by the Father. And then he gave us his perfect life. He made us sinless in the eyes of God. And then he cried out in a loud voice, **It is Finished**. He had completed everything the Lord had sent him to do. His work of saving us was complete. And then three days later he rose from the dead. And he gives us that victory over sin, death, and the devil. Jesus was sent by the Father to win for us eternal life.

Jesus also prayed, **Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him**. Jesus' prayer for all

people is that they would have eternal life. And what is Jesus definition of eternal life? **Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.** To know God is to believe in him—who he is and what he has done. He is the Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the only Spirit—three persons in one God. To know Jesus is to know that he is true God and true man at the same time. And that he is the one who gave up his life on the cross, taking our sins upon himself. By his work and his work alone we have the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. And it is through faith him in alone, which the Holy Spirit gives to us through the gospel, that we receive the blessings he was won for us. To know or believe in the Triune God, and to know Jesus to be true God and true man—that is eternal life. Those who don't know God, then, don't have eternal life. Those who don't know Jesus are not saved. Anyone who denies the Triune God—three person in one God, are not Christian, no matter what they claim. Those who say they believe in Jesus yet deny that he is fully God, also don't know him. And they too don't have eternal life. The same stands for those who claim to believe in Jesus, but also say that we have to add to his work in order to be saved. They don't really know Christ and so they too will not be saved.

To know God and his Son is eternal life. And those who believe have eternal life; those who don't believe do not. John records similar statements of Jesus. John 3:36, **Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.** John 5:24, **I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.** You have eternal life right now. Through faith it is yours. It's not a wish or a hope, but a sure fact. You have eternal life. Because you have been given a new life in Christ. Through your baptism you died. But you are made alive in Christ. Because you are closely connected to Christ and you share in his death and his resurrection.

It is through faith alone that we have this new life. Therefore we don't want to be caught without it. We want all to believe and know God so that they too may have life. So we hurry up—we believe and we

spread the gospel so others may be brought to faith as well. It's urgent and necessary. So we hurry up. But we also wait—until we get a full realization of the eternal life that awaits us.

Christ left his disciples. He went on to retake the full divine glory that he had before he was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He is enjoying the glories and riches of heaven. He left the disciples on this earth. And we are with them. The disciples were all persecuted because of their faith. All of them but John were put to death because they confessed Christ. We face persecution of a different nature. We have to deal with sicknesses and diseases. People mistreat us, take advantage of us, or ignore us. Crime is rampant. It seems the world is getting less and less Christian. And they are becoming more hostile to Christian beliefs. And so we suffer much in this life.

In heaven we will have a perfect life. It will be free from sin. Free from sin's effects. We won't have to worry about people trying to do us harm. There will be no pain, toil, sorrow, or tears. But that's not our life now. We may have newness of life now. But it won't be like it will be in heaven. Now we suffer. Now we wait.

That's why Jesus promised to send them the Holy Spirit. He wasn't about to leave us all alone. But he would send someone to encourage and comfort us. He would unite us with Christ and his suffering and death through baptism. He would strengthen our faith in him through the gospel. He would give us of the forgiveness of sins through the Lord's Supper. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit reminds us of everything Christ has done to save us. And he assures us of the promised life in heaven that awaits.

And because we are left on this earth, Jesus also prayed for his disciples. There is a reason why this prayer is called the "High Priestly Prayer." A high priest served as a mediator between God and man. Our mediator is Jesus Christ. Here he prays to the Father for us. He serves on our behalf. That is something that Jesus is always doing for us. The Writer to the Hebrews makes this point in chapter seven.

**Because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.**

Jesus does this because, once again, we are left on this earth. Even though we have a new life, it may not seem like it. But soon we will. We will have this newness of life into eternity. For all of us—unless Christ returns before hand, will first realize it at our deaths. God will welcome our souls into heaven through faith in him. We will be singing his praises. And enjoying all the blessings and riches of heaven.

But God never intended for our souls to be without our bodies. And so he will unite them once again. On the Last Day Christ will raise our bodies from the dead. And they will join our souls in heaven. We will see Christ with our own eyes. In our own flesh and blood we will live in heaven forever. There in heaven we will share in Christ's glory. A perfect life next to our risen and ascended Lord. Forever. It is then that we'll fully realize and understand what Christ has done for us. It is then that we'll see what this eternal life is that we now have.

We don't want to be caught at our deaths or on Judgment Day without faith. Nor do we want anyone else to be caught without faith on those days either. But we don't know when Judgment Day will come. It could be at any moment. And you never know when you are going to die. It could be on your way home this morning. And so you don't want to risk anything. Both for you and for others—it is urgent. So you hurry up and believe. And you share it with others so that they too may believe and have this new life.

And now that you have hurried up, you wait. You wait patiently for Christ to come again. You wait patiently for him to take you home. Then You will fully realize what he has done for you. So you wait in eager expectation. And you sing his praises and share his Word.

Hurry up and wait. We all do it—well, most of us, anyway. That's what the disciples did during that transitional period between Christ's ascension and him sending the Holy Spirit. And it's what we do during our transitional period. We have new life now through faith in Christ, yet we wait for that new life to be fully realized in heaven. So we hurry up, and wait. And soon our wait will be over. And our new life in eternity will become ours. Amen.